

Remarks:

The Examiner states that the claims of the present application can be broken into the following patentably distinct groups:

Group I: claims 1-15, 33, and 36

Group II: claims 16-32, 34, and 35

Applicants are required to elect one of the patentably distinct groups for examination. Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-15, 33, and 36 without traverse in response to the Examiner's restriction requirement.

Claims 1-15, 33, and 36 remain in the application. Claims 16-32, 34, and 35 have been cancelled without prejudice as a result of the restriction requirement. The amendments to the claims are believed to be fully supported by the specification, drawings, and claims as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter is believed or intended to be involved

Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected claims.

Respectfully submitted,



John F. Colligan, Reg. No. 48,240
Telephone: (269) 923-6439

Dated: June 17, 2004

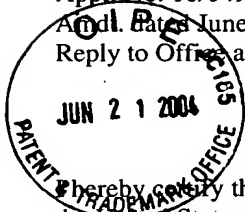
WHIRLPOOL PATENTS COMPANY
500 Renaissance Drive – Ste. 102 MD750
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Appl. No. 10/049,735

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Reply to Office action of May 21, 2004



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date:

6-17-04


Barbara L. Katowich